THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We look into confidential records and reports of superior officers and take all that into account and promote officers."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are the grounds communicated to the persons concerned before they are superceded and is any explanation taken from them as to why they should not be superceded? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think grounds are communicated, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, when the Hon. Minister expects to formulate these rules. The Highways Department has been in existence for over nearly three years. May I know, Sir, when these rules regulating seniority, etc., would be framed? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do expect that we will be able to frame the rules very soon."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, what was the necessity to adopt a different system of recruitment and promotion from Assistant Engineers to Divisional Engineers; half on communal representation and half on other basis when the rules are still in the course of formulation? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Because rules have not been framed we are proceeding on the old basis of recruitment to District Board Engineering Service."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the words very soon ' would imply days, months or years? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It may mean anything, Sir." (Laughter.)

Dearness allowance to Government pensioners.

* 15 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government pensioners who have retired from all grades of Government service are in receipt of dearness allowance and if so, what the rates of such allowance are;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that in 1948 a cut of 50 per cent was effected in the dearness allowance granted to pensioners;

(*c*) whether pension has always been considered by Government as deferred pay;

(*d*) whether the Government have received representations pointing out the inequity involved in paying lower scales of dearness allowance to pensioners; and

(*e*) whether the Government have at any time reviewed this matter and if so, what their decision is?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (a) Not all Government Pensioners are in receipt of dearness allowance. Only pensioners drawing pensions of less than Rs. 106 per mensem are in receipt of dearness allowance as shown below :—

	RS.
Pensions not exceeding Rs. 20	4 per mensem.
Pensions exceeding Rs. 20 but not exceeding Rs. 60	5 per mensem.
Pensions exceeding Rs. 60 but not exceeding Rs. 100.	6 per mensem.

Persons in receipt of pensions exceeding Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 106 per mensem are allowed such increase as will bring the total pension to Rs. 106 per mensem.

" (b) The rates were reduced from 1st January 1948. With effect from 1st January 1948 the rates mentioned in clause (a) are in force. Prior to that date and during 1947 only, the rates of dearness allowance were as follows :—

Pensions of less than Rs. 40 per mensem	Rs. 8 per mensem.
Pensions of Rs. 40 and above but not exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem	Rs. 9 per mensem.

Persons in receipt of pensions exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem but not exceeding Rs. 109 per mensem were allowed such increase as will bring the total pension to Rs. 109 per mensem. Prior to 1st January 1947 also the rates mentioned in clause (a) were in force.

" (c) No.

" (d) Yes.

" (e) Recently the Government reviewed the question but decided against enhancing the rates of dearness allowance."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, why in respect of officers still in service dearness allowance has been granted to all but in the case of pensioners alone, Sir, a limit of Rs. 106 has been fixed? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The answer was clearly stated against 2 (c), viz., whether pension has always been considered by Government as deferred pay. The Government do not consider it so."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it a recent decision of the Government, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is a decision for all time to come."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I am of opinion that the pensioners deserve more dearness allowance on account of the rise in cost of living allowance."

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not know. I cannot pay anything more."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" As the Dearness Allowance is intended to relieve the high cost of living, Sir, will the amount of Dearness Allowance given, in any way meet the high cost of living? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Meet partly, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" While the cost of living is rising so high, do the Government think it fit to cut down the dearness allowance of pensioners by 50 per cent? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The reduction is not 50 per cent, nor is it on any percentage basis. Rs. 8 and 9 has dropped down to Rs. 4, 5 and 6. The reduction is not 50 per cent."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" The cut was proposed in dearness allowance to pensioners at a time when the cost of living index was rising. I do not understand what was the necessity, Sir, for the pensioners alone to be treated in this manner while in respect of the persons working, however, it was proposed to increase the dearness allowance."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We find that in all Provinces this was adopted. There is no reason why Madras alone should give an enhanced rate of dearness allowance."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is the Hon. Minister prepared to follow other provinces in all other matters, especially in regard to pay and allowances? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No Sir, only when it suits us."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of guaranteeing reasonable amount of dearness allowance to these poor pensioners, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Pensioners are poor indeed. But what about the position of the province after total prohibition? "

DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Were the hon. Members primarily responsible for this total prohibition policy being supported and whether this is the cause for the Government being in this unhappy position that they cannot give slightly enhanced dearness allowance? "

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" We are not responsible for the policy."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The question is put to the Hon. Minister."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Do Government think now of revising the policy of prohibition, Sir? "

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister to restore the cut that was effected in 1948 in respect of pensioners."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Much as I sympathize with the poor pensioners drawing less than Rs. 106, the inability of the Government must be taken into consideration. The restoration of the cut would certainly amount to more than ten lakhs of rupees."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I would like the Hon. Minister to express his sympathy in rupees, annas and pies and not in words."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I would like, the Leader of the Opposition expresses sympathy to the Government on behalf of the people and the poor men in the street about whom he talks every time and persuade them to pay more taxes. Certainly then, I shall consider the proposal."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is not the poor men paying all the taxes the Hon. the Finance Minister is imposing without grumbling; sales tax at every stage increased bus fares and all other taxes? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No, Sir. I do not think that all the taxes that we are imposing are falling on the poor men."

Number of co-operative societies for house construction and the houses constructed by them.

* 16 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of co-operative societies for the construction of houses that have started work;

(*b*) the number of houses that are under construction;

(*c*) the number that have been completed by the end of May; and

(*d*) whether any scheme for rural areas has been introduced?

THE HON. SRI N. SANJEEVA REDDI :—" (*a*) Since July 1947, when the Government initiated a drive for organizing new housing schemes, seven co-operative house building societies, organized under the new scheme, have started construction of houses.

" (*b*) At the end of May 1949, 566 houses were under construction by the new as well as the old building societies.

" (*c*) The number of houses constructed by the new societies by the end of May 1949 is 94. Apart from this 461 houses were constructed by the old building societies during the period from 1st July 1946 to 31st May 1949.

" (*d*) No scheme for rural areas has so far been introduced."